

**REMARKS**

Claims 26-54 were pending. Claims 26-49 and 52-54 were indicated as allowed in the Final Rejection. Claims 50 and 51 were rejected. Claims 50 and 51 are canceled herein without prejudice to be pursued in a continuation application at a later date. In view of the foregoing amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, request early notification of the same and request withdrawal of all rejections upon reconsideration.

The Final Rejection also indicated that the certified copy of the priority document had not been received. The same is being sent today under separate cover.

**CONCLUSION**

Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request early notification of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

*February 5, 2004*

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